

“LINGER”

*A single TV facing away from audience lights room.*

*1-2 min.*

*Ceiling single lightbulb clicks on.*

*TV faces table and chair against window with security gate.*

*Outside night.*

*Rear wall center arched doorway.*

*Flanking it on wall:*

*(r) subway poster close up of dollar’s Washington w/“Trust it. Its right on the money”*

*⊗*

*(l) colorphoto poster of black woman’s pussy, open.*

*TV to left of room (apt) entrance door ⊗ slightly away from wall.*

*Left of TV and behind, against wall small fridge on a table with bottle on top of fridge.*

*A sink to right of entrance door.*

*ABEL (TV) stands on top TV naked, arranging noose of two white ties tied together around his neck.*

*Something on TV catches his attention ⊗ he leans over noose to look.*

*Grows more interested in television ⊗ begins to remove noose, dipping a foot down to hike up the volume (SOUND: recorded speech in reverse).*

*ABEL enters room from entrance door dressed in brown UPS uniform, sees ABEL (TV) with noose and his interest in TV.*

*They look at each other, ⊗ with his eyes on ABEL (TV)’s, ABEL walks over to TV raises a leg ⊗ clicks off the TV with a foot, turns around walks to chair, sits down throws a leg over the corner of the table and throws a fist-sized brown package on table.*

*The package pulses like a heart.*

*Both ABEL (TV) ⊗ ABEL have hairless 2 foot long tails.*

ABEL (TV) : I

ABEL : love

ABEL (TV) : you

ABEL : I

ABEL (TV) : love

ABEL (TV) : you

*SIMULTANEOUS*

*<— Sign lang. Spoken —>*

ABEL (TV) : This

ABEL : cant

ABEL (TV) : go

ABEL : on

ABEL (TV) : like

ABEL : this

Both laugh.

*A car alarm goes off inside the room. Noise sequence ends.*

ABEL : *(Annoyed)* Abel. Get dressed.

ABEL (TV): (*Annoyed*) Abel. Get undressed.

(*PAUSE*)

ABEL : I'ma have a drink you wanna drink?

ABEL (TV) : One of my students today gave me his final paper. "Proof of the Existence of God." A hundred handwritten pages microscopic detailed description of a woman who said she'll never love him.

ABEL : You grade him?

ABEL (TV) : (*Silent look of watching.*)

ABEL : Well. Least it got you on the tv.

Both laugh.

ABEL : (*Still seated*) I'ma have a drink you wanna drink?

*SIMULTANEOUS:*

*The package explodes.*

*ABEL (TV) steps off TV and hangs from neck, swinging.*

*A car alarm goes off in the room. //*

*ABEL rises irritably and walks slowly, annoyed, to ABEL (TV), turns his back to him then suddenly squats and stands so ABEL (TV) is sitting on his shoulders.*

*The alarm ends.*

ABEL : I asked if you wanted a drink.

ABEL (TV) : Yes. Yes I think I do.

*ABEL leans to reach bottle on fridge which makes ABEL (TV) pulled almost horizontally by the noose, backtracks to front of TV, uncaps and takes drink from bottle, passes it up to ABEL (TV) who also drinks, reaches down for the cap, replaces cap very deliberately.*

*ABEL raises a hand for the bottle, ABEL (TV) puts a single extended finger right in front of ABEL's eyes, horizontally.*

ABEL (TV) : I

ABEL : too

ABEL (TV) : love

ABEL : you.

*SIMULTANEOUS*

<— sign lang spoken —>

*with bottle in hand*

ABEL (TV) : Looking

ABEL : makes

ABEL (TV) : me

ABEL : look.

*ABEL raises both hands palms up. ABEL (TV) places a foot on each palm and slowly stands. ABEL revolves faces TV & ABEL (TV) steps onto TV, turns and faces ABEL whose hands drop to his sides. ENTIRE SEQUENCE APPEARS EFFORTLESS. ABEL raises a leg and clicks on TV w/foot, goes to table, sits down throws a leg over corner & watches the silent TV. ABEL (TV) takes a drink from the bottle, closes cap, scratches his balls. Light out. The unseen TV lights the room.*

END.

*September 1992*